Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Volume 25 Number 4 *April 2008*

2008 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

God's Work. Our Hands.

The 2008 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, May 16, and Saturday, May 17, at the Everett Events Center in Everett. Carla Berg (who chaired the 2007 Assembly and is a member of Sammamish Hills Lutheran in Sammamish) and Millie Fosberg (Christ the King in Snohomish) are co-chairing the event. You can reach Carla and Millie at synodassembly@lutheransnw.org.

The deadline for nominations and resolutions was March 10. **Deadline for on-line registration is Saturday, May 17.**

The 2008 Synod Assembly voting members will be electing synod council members and 2009 Churchwide Assembly voting members. Voting members will also discuss and vote on the 2009 Northwest Washington Synod budget.

This year's theme is *God's Work. Our Hands.* The program is being coordinated by the Lay Theological Education Committee, chaired by The Rev. Eldon Olson. (ret.). Eldon can be reached at eldonolson@aol.com. Our churchwide representative is Carlos Peña, vice president of the ELCA.

Check the synod website often because important information will be added as they are made available (www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2008).

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SPAM And The Synod's Email

Your Email Is Important To Us

If you are a Comcast email subscriber and have not heard from the Synod Office recently, or have send an email to the Bishop or another member of the office staff and received no reply, it may be that your emails from us are being filtered by Comcast. Although the circumstances seem to vary, we often have our emails (prayer concerns, Synod FYI's, emails with attachments, etc) 'bounce' from Comcast.

We have made every effort to comply with their procedures and our webhost server has done everything possible to meet their requirements, but they continue to (sporadically) brand us as purveyors of 'SPAM'. Because this does not happen every time we send email to a Comcast subscriber it is difficult for us to resolve the problem. Other Internet Service Providers have moved away from this kind of excessive filtering (without notifying customers that they are filtering your email) and we believe Comcast can be encouraged to find a better model.

We encourage you to consider making a complaint to Comcast.

If you have a non-Comcast email address, it may be a good idea to provide that address to the Synod Office to ensure that we are able to send email to you. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Soundings *published monthly (with one combined issue for June/July) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
5519 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103-5829.
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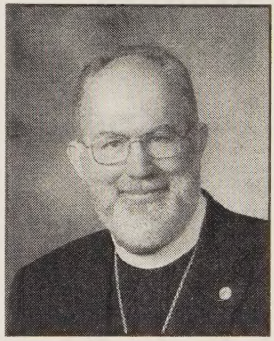
Deadline for the April 2008 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Wednesday, April 2. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop



The Reverend
Wm Chris Boerger

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." Romans 12:9-10 NRSV

One of the dangers of writing this column is the deadline is often before the activity that I want to write about. That is the case this month. I am writing this article prior to the release of the draft of the social statement on human sexuality. I do not know what will be in that document.

I do know that this is not the final proposed social statement. There is work for the church to do. I hear people say that they do not have opportunity to affect things like this. The fact is that every member of this church is invited and encouraged to send comments regarding the **draft** social statement to the task force. This is perhaps the most democratic part of our process. But it will only work if people do study the draft and respond.

After the release of the statement on March 13, you have until November 1, 2008, to submit your responses to the Human Sexuality Task Force. It is my hope that you will make use of this opportunity to study the document and to participate in the creation of this statement.

Next year we will have the proposed statement for consideration at our Synod Assembly, and the final proposal will require a two-thirds majority to be adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. The year for resolutions and memorials is next year. This year is a year for study and discussion.

The Romans text that precedes this article is also something to keep in mind. This is a process that is asking what is the church's faithful position on issues related to the gift of sexuality. This gift is given to all of us. So this is not about us or them, but it is about all of us. We live in relationships. That fact means that we build each other up and we also sin against each other. That truth applies to all aspects of our relationships. It also applies to our sexual relationships.

As we share our understanding of good and evil, I also ask that we take seriously the call to outdo one another in showing honor. A discussion of sexuality produces numerous emotions. The reminder to honor one another is often lost in our emotional response.

I would like to say that this is the final study on this topic. I would like to say that, but I doubt it. Our culture is so fixated on issues of sex in advertising, media and identity that it is impossible to avoid it. We have something important to say about what it means to be created as sexual beings. This means that our God is a part of the discussion. We now ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we talk to each other.

The draft of the proposed ELCA Social Statement on Sexuality is available at: www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/

Bishop's Spring Convocation

Readings Ancient and Modern with Dr. Davidson

The Northwest Washington Synod is pleased to present Dr. Steed Davidson, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, as the speaker for our upcoming one-day Spring Bishop's Convocation from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at Glendale Lutheran in Burien.

Davidson, an alumnus of Union Theological Seminary, Boston University, and University of the West Indies, will be speaking and leading discussion on the dynamic tension of approaching the Bible as ancient text and relevant story for our time. The morning session will address the Bible as an authoritative text, while the afternoon session will focus on how Christians might best approach the Old Testament in our teaching and understanding.

In addition to the engaging sessions with Prof. Davidson, the day also includes worship, lunch, a message from the bishop and the opportunity to meet with other rostered leaders in the synod.

Cost is $18 for active rostered leaders, $15 for retired rostered leaders and $20 at the door. You can easily register by going to the event on the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org, click on calendar. A registration form is available on the Calendar event. For additional information you can contact the Synod Office at office@lutheransnw.org, or telephone 206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6007.

Charity To Justice

Plan to attend the upcoming *Charity To Justice* event from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at Trinity Lutheran in Lynnwood. Our keynote speaker is Rick Steves, *Europe Through The Back Door.*

This will be an opportunity for educational and interactive opportunities to look at root causes and solutions to hunger and poverty and our transformation as we respond. A free-will offering will be requested. Call or email to reserve a spot: Kristie Neklason at 206-795-4288 or Carol Wall at 360-320-9466; or worldhunger@lutheransnw.org.

Lost and Found

by Pastor Gretchen Mertes, Renton Lutheran Church

You are invited to a concert with *Lost and Found* beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran in Renton on Friday April 18.

The group's songs have been recognized by publishers and others as some of the best around. Tickets $10/door, $8/advance, $6/groups 5+, free/kids 5 and under. You can also check out *Lost and Found* at www.speedwood.com If you have any questions please call me at 425-226-2420 or email me at pastor.gretchen@comcast.net. Don't miss a great event!

A Workshop For Couples

Aligning Money and Values

Aligning Money and Values: a Workshop for Couples – This overnight retreat is hosted by the Northwest Washington Synod and is free. This event, however, is designed for couples, and will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Seattle on Friday and Saturday, April 4 & 5. All costs, including overnight accommodations, meals and parking at the Crowne Plaza, will be covered through a grant received by the Northwest Washington Synod. There will be no selling or product presentations involved.

The goal of the workshop is for couples to think and converse about the role of money in their lives in relation to personal values and long-terms goals, including consideration of the legacy they hope to leave and what this might mean to their congregation and the larger church.

Please contact Larry Johnson to make reservation today at johnson@lutheransnw.org or 425-226-6629

Gloria Dei Fund

The Gloria Dei Endowment Fund Committee will meet on Thursday, May 1 to consider requests for grants. In order to be considered, requests must be received by April 20.

The brief grant request form is available online at www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/gloriadei.asp. Submit grant requests to committee chair, Pastor Bev Piro c/o Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, 7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103.

National Gatherings

Supporting The Ministry Of Women and Men

A National Gathering for Women—Be refreshed and inspired this summer at Women of the ELCA's Seventh Triennial Gathering, July 10-13 in Salt Lake City. The featured speaker will be Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B. Visit www.womenoftheelca.org/tg08 for more information and to register online. Bring your daughter, mother, friends, or relatives. We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City in July!

A National Gathering for Men—*Coming of Age*, the 2008 Lutheran Men's Gathering will take place Aug. 1-3, 2008 at the Omaha Nebraska Hilton and Qwest Center. Featured speakers will include former Nebraska coach and congressman Tom Osborne; and *Coming of Age* authors David Anderson and Paul Hill. Gathering musicians will include Dakota Road and Peter Mayer. Learn more about the 2008 *Coming of Age* Lutheran Men's Gathering by going to www.elca.org/lmm and clicking on the Winter 2007 Foundations newsletter. See you there!

Passing On The Ministry

Three Generations of Pastors

In January 2007 Nathan Anenson (second from right) was ordained in his home congregation (Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City, Iowa) as a result completing a third generation of Anenson pastors. Nathan is now serving in his first parish as an Associate Pastor at St. Luke Lutheran in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. His father, Stephen (far right), was ordained on May 25, 1978, and serves as Senior Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City. Nathan's grandfather, LeRoy (second from left), was ordained on June 12, 1955. After 34 years in parish ministry he retired from Northlake Lutheran Church in Kenmore, Washington, and now serves as Volunteer Associate Chaplain at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland, Washington. Bishop Peter Rogness, Saint Paul Area Synod, is on the far left.

Four Generations of Youth Ministers

Chad Larson (far right), youth director at Mt. Si Lutheran Church in North Bend, attended the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza that was held in January. He met up with his former youth director, David Wollen (second from right), who met up with his former youth director Kris Bjorke (center), who met up with her former youth directors, David and Kathy Hunstad. We just never know the impact we make on young people as youth ministry shapes their lives. For more information about the ELCA Youth Ministry Network visit www.elcaymnet.org.

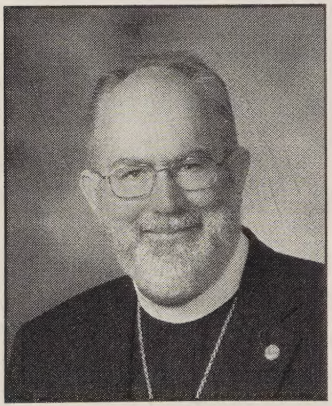
The Spirit

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 25, Number 4 April 2008

Opening The Book Of Faith

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



The *Book of Faith* initiative is a five-year project for every member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

This project is the result of a memorial from the North Carolina Synod to the 1995 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Its goal is to increase Biblical knowledge and conversation among all of the members of this church.

We are a church that affirms that the scriptures are the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life. It is confronts us with the lively Word of God. It is a word that is active today in our lives.

So the *Book of Faith* project is about getting us as individuals, in small groups, congregations and synods to commit to study the Bible. That study is not about just learning the facts. It is about using this gift of God to guide our lives and our faith. This is important, life giving work.

Over the next few years, there will be new resources developed for our use. The key to this is not the resources, it is our commitment to read and study the Bible. Those attending the Synod Assembly this year will be given the introductory resource, "*Opening the Book of Faith*". If you are not at the assembly, you can purchase a copy through Augsburg Fortress (www.augsburgfortress.org)

Passing On The Ministry

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God's Work. Our Hands.

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registration is Saturday, May 17.

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Check the synod website often because due dates, forms and other important information will be added as they are made available (www.

of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy ***The Spirit*** and include it in their own newsletters. ***The Spirit*** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA
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Email: margit@lutheransnw.org
Telephone: 425-299-6667
Website: www.lutheransnw.org

Information for the May 2008 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, April 2.

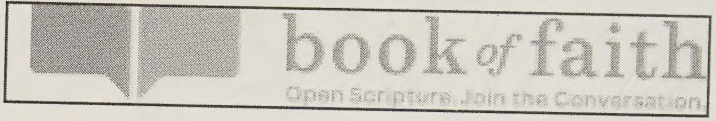
Holy Spirit works faith in our lives through the means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments. Thus, for us, scripture is at the heart of our life together.

We do not approach scripture in a literalistic manner. We are not interested in what scripture said to our ancestors, we are interested in what scripture is saying to us and our time. The Bible

Church. Luther's reformation was strongly supported by the translating of the Bible into the language of the people. As the regular person read the Bible, the faith of the church was strengthened.

We live in a time of Biblical illiteracy both in and out of the church. It is a time for us to grow in faith through our study of the Word.

(Editor's Note: You can learn more about the Book of Faith by visiting the synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org and clicking on Book of Faith under Spotlight. The Book of Faith website offers not only the opportunity to learn more about the initiative and to learn more about the Bible, but also to participate in conversations on-line, to sign-up for daily Bible readings, Bible studies, videos, and much more.)



State Advocate's Corner

by The Rev. Paul Benz

Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State

pbenz@lcsnw.org

206-464-4133
www.lppowa.org

Greetings advocate. By the time you read this the state legislature will have adjourned on March 13th. But as I write this it still has six more days left! I will provide an 'end of legislature report' in the May synod newsletter, or simply go to our website (www.lppowa.org).

Here are some Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO)/ELCA advocacy updates:

- LPPO's fifth annual fundraiser begins at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, in Seattle. (Visit www.lppowa.org for more details.) If you cannot attend the fundraiser, please send us your contribution. Your support is critical to our effectiveness and ability to truly be present statewide. (Only 13 percent of our budget comes from our ELCA synods in this state).
- The newest ELCA advocacy resource is out entitled *Called to be a Public Church—2008 ELCA Voting & Civic Participation Guide.* LPPO has hard copies; or you can download a copy at www.elca.org/advocacy.
- ELCA social policy update: The newest social statement *Our Calling in Education* is now available in a printed version from Augsburg Fortress or the LPPO office can mail you one or more copies. Also, in November of 2007 the Church wide Church Council adopted a social policy resolution entitled "The Sponsorship of legal gaming by American Indian tribes".
- LPPO is willing to help plan and coordinate any kind of electoral activity from voter registration to an issue-based candidate's forum.

As always, we are willing to come on any Sunday to do our "advocacy teach & preach" or do an advocacy forum on a Saturday in your community.

Taste of Tanzania II

Enjoy a quick visit to Tanzania at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, at Kent Lutheran Church, 336 Second Ave South, Kent.

Taste the Chai, see the sights, hear the stories… No passports or immunizations required! Special guests are Jean Wahlstrom and Marv Kananen, missionaries at the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania.

- 3:30 p.m.—Gather Together; a time for conversation and to learn how Washington congregations are involved in Tanzania.
- 4 p.m.—Evening Program; Jean & Marv will bring updates from the MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School. Deana Miller will share the latest about Operation Bootstrap Africa.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, 1-800-244-6997 (toll free). This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

We continue to hold in our prayers:

† **Paul Anderson, Associate in Ministry**
† **The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
† **Paula Ingebritson, wife of Pastor Joel Ingebritson, Bethlehem Lutheran in Seattle**
† **Arlett Nordsletten, widow of Pastor Olin Nordsletten**
† **The Rev. Roger Patrow (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek, Christ Lutheran in Ferndale**
† **Linda Petrasek, wife of the Rev. Phil Petrasek**
† **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Malcolm Unseth (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We pray for:

† **The Rev. Dan Selmann (ret.)** whose mother died in February after a lengthy illness and decline. Cards may be sent to the Selmann's at: 7245 NE 160th, Bothell WA 98011.

† **The Rev. Robert Hofstad, bishop of Southwestern Washington Synod,** was in the hospital (St. Peters, Olympia) with chest pains in February. Cards may be sent to: Southwestern Washington Synod, 420 121st St South, Tacoma WA 98444.

† **Naomi Kindem (age eight weeks on 2/25), daughter of the Rev. Erik (pastor at Peace Lutheran in West Seattle)and Chris Kindem,** was diagnosed with meningitus. She is now at home and getting better. Naomi has an older brother Kai. Cards may be sent to: Peace Lutheran Church, 8316 - 39th Ave SW, Seattle WA 98136.

† **Nan Beth Walton, Associate in Ministry,** Faith Lutheran in Seattle, reports that she has no detectable cancer at this time. She sends many thanks for all the prayers.

† **At the regular Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for our companion synods: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - Northern Synod. We pray for our sister synod Southwestern Texas Synod. We pray for the people of Iraq, for the people of Afghanistan and for all people experiencing concern. We pray for peace.

Job Openings

For more information and details regarding the listed employment opportunities please visit the synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org/jobs

Prince of Peace Lutheran Preschool in Everett is searching for a full-time Preschool Director. Early Childhood Education degree or equivalent, and teaching experience required. Ability to organize and administrate along with excellent verbal and written communication skills. Active member of a Christian church (preferably Lutheran). Current enrollment is 500 students in seven locations. Closing date is March 31. Call 425-338-1933.

Sammamish Hills Lutheran in Sammamish is searching to fill two positions: Director of Student Ministries and Director of Educational Ministries. **The Director of Student Ministries** provides overall leadership ministry with Middle through High School youth and families. A minimum of two years full-time related parish work required for application to be considered. This is a full-time position with commensurate support, salary and benefits. **The Director of Educational Ministries** provides overall leadership for Christian education for infants through 8th grade. A minimum of two years full-time related parish work required for application to be considered This is a full-time position with commensurate support, salary and benefits. For either position contact Pastor John LaMunyon, 425-392-7799, ext. 13; or prjohn@shlc.org. Full position descriptions are available at www.shlc.org.

Northlake Lutheran Church in Kenmore is searching for a part-time Worship Leader for the 11 a.m. Praise Worship Service. Duties would include planning the music components of this contemporary service as well as leading and participating with the musical worship team. For additional information, please contact the church at 425-486-6977 or email nlcoffice@northlakelutheran.org.

RIC: Next Steps

Is your congregation RIC or is it exploring becoming RIC? The second RIC Adventure workshop will be held on Saturday, April 5, at Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood, 6215 196th Street SW. Sponsored by Open Door Ministries, Lutherans Concerned North America and Harmony with some resources provided by Thrivent, the workshop will bring together clergy, laity, and members of the LGBTI community to share information and resources that will facilitate the process and enable congregations to take the next steps to become truly welcoming. If you are interested in attending or if you have questions or specific requests that would be helpful to you or your congregation, please contact Rick Pribbernow at 425-359-9313 or Corine Schmidt at 425-640-5316.

News and Notes

- This year's **Team Russia Auction** will be held on Sunday, May 4, at the Nile Golf & Country Club in Mountlake Terrace. The dinner is $45/person. For reservations and more info contact David and Renee McNeal, Holy Cross in Bellevue, rndmcneal@msn.com.
- **The Rev. Paul Hoffman, pastor at Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle**, will travel to England after Easter. Pastor Paul will attend the 20th Annual Roundtable at Oxford at Oxford University. The topic of this conversation of religious, political, social and educational leaders from across the world will be Secularism. Pastor Hoffman will present a paper at the Roundtable entitled Faith Formation in a Secular World, sharing the story of Phinney Ridge's ministry, and especially that of The WAY – the Adult Catechumenate – with the 40 other participants in this conversation. Donna, Pastor Paul's wife, will also attend.
- The ***Book of Faith*** is an initiative of the ELCA and it invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture. You can learn more about the *Book of Faith* by visiting www.lutheransnw.org and clicking on *Book of Faith* under Spotlight.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Paul Hermansen	Immanuel, Centralia	4/5/2008
Kathleen McCallum Sachse	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	2/20/08
Installations		
Kathleen MaCallum Sachse	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	4/6/2008
Bill Walles	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	3/9/2008
Occasions/Events		
Calvary Lutheran, Seattle	Merged with Our Redeemer, Seattle	3/9/2008
Retirements		
Mark Johnson	First Evangelical, Mount Vernon	9/1/2008
Lowell Stine	Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah	8/1/2008
Resignation		
Marty Dasler	Bethany, Bainbridge	2/29/2008
Retirements		
Mark Johnson	First Evangelical, Mount Vernon	9/1/2008
Transfers In/Out of the Synod		
Martin Dasler	Alaska Synod	3/1/2008
Paul Hermansen	Southwestern Washington Synod	4/5/2008

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Transitions can be found on page 9

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bainbridge Island, Bethany	PR	NV	Andrew Yee, Co-Pastor; Interim Pending
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	NV	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	NV	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	A	NV	Michael Ross, Pastor
Everett, Trinity	PR	I	Chris Anderson, Interim
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Mitch Watney, Supply
Marysville, Bethlehem	PR	P	Neil Snider, Interim
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	A/SP	I	Jerry Buss, Pastor
Seatac, Prince of Peace	A	P	Conrad Tollefson, Pastor
Seattle, Crown	PR	TR	Dan Selmann, Interim
Seattle, Faith	A/SP	NV	Nancy Winder, Pastor
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Recycling "Retired" Vestments for Tanzania

Cross of Christ Lutheran, Bellevue, will send two mission teams to Tanzania in July 2008. In coordination with a local pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (who serves as the head of a district), Cross of Christ will bring out "retired" altar/pulpit/lectern paraments, especially paraments with purple as the Lenten and Advent color. For more information, contact Vernette Rae (425-746-7300) or vernetter@cofclc.org.

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Northwest Washington Synod
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Soundings
April 2008

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2400 Ridge Rd
Berkley CA 94709-1212